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Pierre Report: A Growing South Dakota Problem

BY STATE REP. STACE NELSON
R-District 19 (Fulton)

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My dear fellow South Dakotans,

I have not met one of you who is not concerned about a US Congress that has spent this country to the brink of financial ruin with a runaway national debt of \$16 trillion and growing. This debt exploded by Congress passing omnibus bills that created countless new programs that grew our federal government to the top-heavy, taxpayer-crushing size it is today.

South Dakota started this session with a surplus of your tax dollars, and were one of the top states in the nations, even as we face sequester cuts. The Legislature/governor GREW state government and changed that, though, by passing omnibus bills containing numerous new programs with more than 120 new full-time employees, that you were somehow doing without before, to include a similar "economic development program" voters overwhelmingly defeated in 2012's RL14.

Omnibus bills SB70, SB90, SB235, HB1060, and HB1185 were special interest favorites that were chocked full of new program spending that did not even attempt to hide the fact they made a mockery of state Constitution Article III Sec § 21, and Article XII Sec § 2 — prohibitions against such omnibus packaging. As with the federal government, this type of fiscal irresponsibility diverts proper support to essential public infrastructure needs (education, roads, etc), creates a further tax burden on you and grows an ever-expanding government on your shoulders.

In support of this government expansion, several tax increases were passed that will be taking more of your money. Roughly \$100 million in new spending was passed at a cost of approximately \$120 per every man, woman, and child in the state.

I opposed this wholesale expansion of government, on your backs, the best I could. Sadly, many legislators who campaigned claiming to be fiscally conservative went along to get along, and these bills were all passed. Spending all but the crumbs left of your tax dollar surplus, and raising your future taxes, to expand South Dakota's government on your back, is NOT fiscally conservative.



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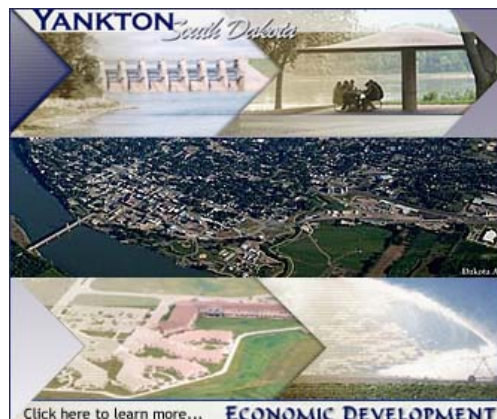
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